Fusitriton oregonensis from the Patton Seamount in the Gulf of Alaska

BY

DAVID A. SOMERTON

Center for Quantitative Science in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife

University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

(2 Text figures)

In June, 1979, six live specimens of *Fusitriton oregonensis* (Redfield, 1848) were caught in sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) and king crab (*Paralithodes camtschatica*) traps during exploratory fishing operations conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service on the Gulf of Alaska seamounts. Although *F. oregonensis* has been found on a seamount before (Birkeland, 1971), these specimens are, I believe, the first record of this species from a seamount in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Patton seamount was the only seamount, of the eight sampled, where *Fusitriton oregonensis* was caught. The absence of *F. oregonensis* on the other seamounts may be due to their greater depth (Figure 1) because all seamounts except Patton were deeper than the reported maximum depth (433 m) of *F. oregonensis* in the Gulf of Alaska (Smith, 1970). One of the Patton seamount specimens, however, was collected at 540 m, 107 m deeper than the previous record.

The Gulf of Alaska seamounts are isolated from adjacent areas of comparable depth along the continental slope by depths exceeding 3 000 meters. Although our sampling was not exhaustive, *Fusitriton oregonensis* was the only snail obtained on our survey and may well be the only shallow water snail to have colonized the seamounts. Undoubtedly, the reason for this is that *F. oregonensis* has a pelagic larva (Smith, 1970), a feature which is unusual for a snail inhabiting such high latitudes (A. Kohn, pers. comm.). Unlike the Emperor seamounts, where an endemic species of *Fusitriton* has evolved (Habe, 1979), the Patton seamount is not completely isolated and apparently receives at least sporadic recruitment of larvae from coastal areas.

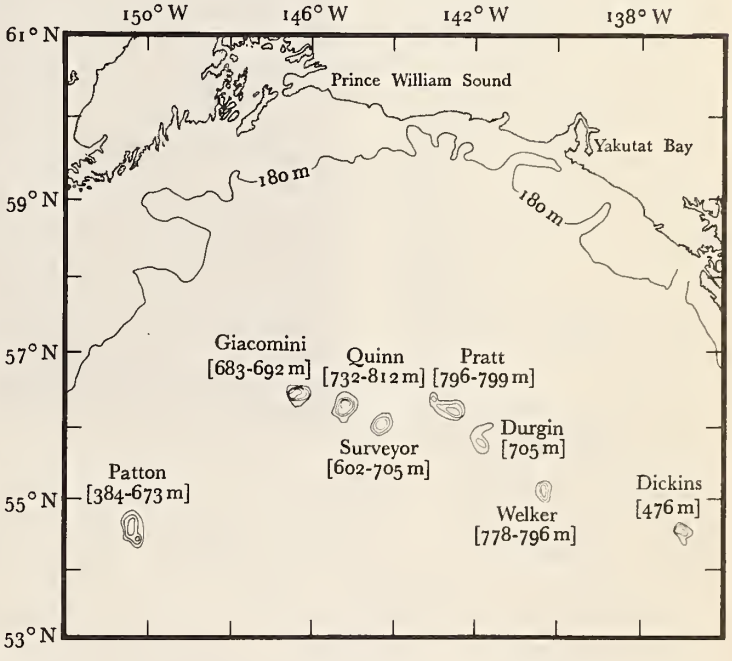

Figure 1

Location of the eight seamounts sampled on the 1979 National Marine Fisheries Service seamount survey. Sampling depths on each seamount are indicated in brackets

The specimens are cataloged (No. 36794) at the Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Figure 2

One of the six Patton seamount specimens of *Fusitriton oregonensis*

Literature Cited

Birkeland, Charles E.
1971. Biological observations on Cobb seamount. Northwest Sci. 45: 193-196

Habe, Tadashige
1979. A new *Fusitriton* from the Emperor seamounts in the north Pacific. Venus (Japan. Journ. Malacol.) 38: 79-81

Smith, J. T.
1970. Taxonomy, distribution and phylogeny of the cymatiid gastropods *Argobuccinum, Fusitriton, Mediargo* and *Priene*. Bull. Amer. Paleont. 56: 445-573